

<1/15/19 Strike Update> UTLA Protests CCSA Office, Strike Extends to Third Day

1 message

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Dear Los Angeles Charter Leaders,

We write with today's updates and news coverage on the second day of the UTLA strike in LAUSD schools, including the announcement that the strike would continue into a third day, the protest of the CCSA office, and the initiation of a strike at The Accelerated Schools, and independent charter school whose members have long been represented by UTLA. **We encourage you to use our updated letter to families to ensure your community that your school will continue to remain open no matter what.**

UTLA leadership escalated their explicit anti-charter rhetoric at CCSA today, with Alex Caputo-Pearl repeating his call for a cap on charter schools at the rally in Little Tokyo. While Mayor Garcetti was present at the rally, no elected leader spoke to the crowd. Most reports of protest activity at charter campuses today were low, as UTLA asked their members specifically to come to downtown demonstrations after morning pickets. But, tomorrow teachers will stage local protests after their morning picket lines. As a result, we expect that picketing could pick up at school sites throughout the city, both in the morning and afternoon, and tensions could escalate. Alex Caputo-Pearl also signaled engagement with Mayor Garcetti and Gavin Newsom, and indicated that Garcetti was working hard to bring the sides back to the table tomorrow.

This morning, UTLA held a press conference outside of The Accelerated Schools to announce that the teachers at that network decided to go on strike. The strike at the Accelerated Schools is separate from negotiations at LAUSD, but UTLA is using their strike to perpetuate a narrative about the need for changes to charter school policy. UTLA has also used the strike at TAS to make the case that school communities throughout Los Angeles agree broadly with the strike.

Nevertheless, our data indicates that attendance remained above 90% in LAUSD-located charter schools. Although some members reported picketers asking their students not to go into schools, most picketers engaged minimally with charter school families and teachers. Meanwhile, the District reported a slight uptick in their attendance statistics, but [LAUSD schools still reported about 2/3rds of students were absent](#).

Tomorrow, we expect and hope that our pro-active messaging will be featured in the media. CCSA CEO Myrna Castrejon spoke to reporters today and will appear in the media again tomorrow. [Myrna's open letter to Alex Caputo-Pearl](#) has generated significant engagement on social media, and she continues to echo the messages contained therein - that while charters are not party to negotiations, we welcome the broad attention UTLA has brought to public education in Los Angeles and hope they will join us in petitioning Sacramento for increased funding to all of California's public schools. Please be on the lookout for this coverage, as we work hard to best position our movement while making an intentional effort not to lend credibility to the notion we should be bargained.

As always, please contact our team with any questions, and review consequential news media clips and CCSA-provided resources below:

- [NPR on 1/15: The School Board's View Of The Los Angeles Teacher Strike \(Nick Melvoin Interview\)](#)

- LA Times on 1/15: Teachers strike at L.A. charter schools too, a first for California
- SpeakUp on 1/15: Schools Lose Millions A Day During Strike With No End In Sight
- NPR 1A on 1/15: What the LA Teacher Strike Means For the Nation

Again, with logistical or media issues throughout the strike, please contact your Regional Advocacy Director:

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In addition, please plan to join us tomorrow at 5PM for an evening member call.

We have updated member resources and are sharing new guidance. Our recently **UPDATED** Strike Preparedness How-To Guide for Charter School Leaders includes a complete list of all member resources, including:

- **NEW:** Updated letter to families with new strike date and recommendations on interacting with members of the media.
- **NEW:** Sample Statement for Charter Schools to Give to Media During LAUSD Strike
- **NEW:** Charter Educator Update on UTLA's Open Letter to Charter Teachers (Please review this resources with your legal counsel before distributing to your staff, particularly if you have unique school-specific labor considerations.)
- As a reminder, the **LA School Police Watch Command number is (213) 625-6631**. Detailed information on contacting law enforcement is available in our Picketing Guide.

In an effort to equip members to focus on serving kids while we tackle the broader narrative, CCSA has created the following **NEW** resource page for media on the strike.

As a reminder, if you receive media inquiries, please let your **RA Director** know, and then use this **NEW** statement to refer reporters to us.

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